

A Thesis

NO 29

By

George Thurst

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W. B. H.

Virginia

On

Cholera Infantum

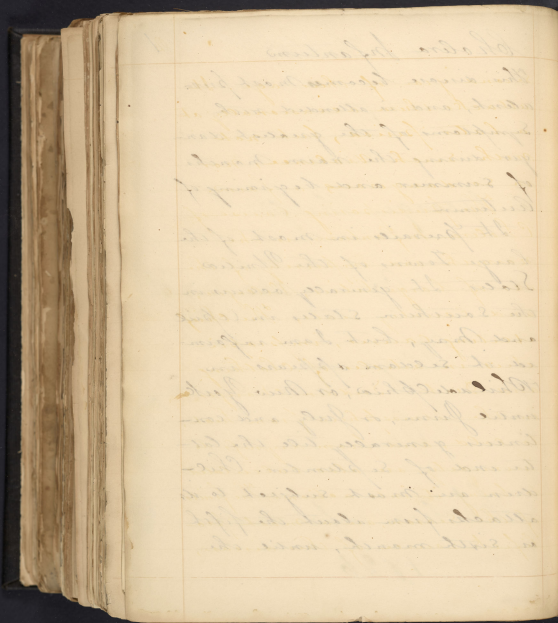
1826

1890  
The above is a list of the  
names of the persons who  
have been appointed to  
the various offices of the  
Board of Education for the  
year 1890. The names are  
given in alphabetical order  
of the surnames. The  
names of the persons who  
have been appointed to the  
various offices of the Board  
of Education for the year  
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alphabetical order of the  
surnames.

## Cholera Infantum

This disease becomes most prevalent, and is attended with symptoms of the greatest danger during the warm months of summer and beginning of autumn.

It prevails in most of the large towns of the United States. It generally occurs in the Southern States in April and May, but I am informed it seldom appears in Philadelphia, or New York until June, or July and continues generally till the latter end of September. Children are most subject to its attacks from about the fifth or sixth month, until the





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second year of their age. It attacks them occasionally at a later period, but not with such violence, nor in so dangerous a form.

The predisposing cause of Cholera Infantum, is the warmth and impurity of the air of large cities, villages, and country seats. The chief exciting causes, improprieties in articles of clothing and Diet. Sudden changes in the atmosphere from heat, to cold, and from dryness to humidity, are also calculated to bring it into action. The fumes of the season, are a most prolific source of this disease,



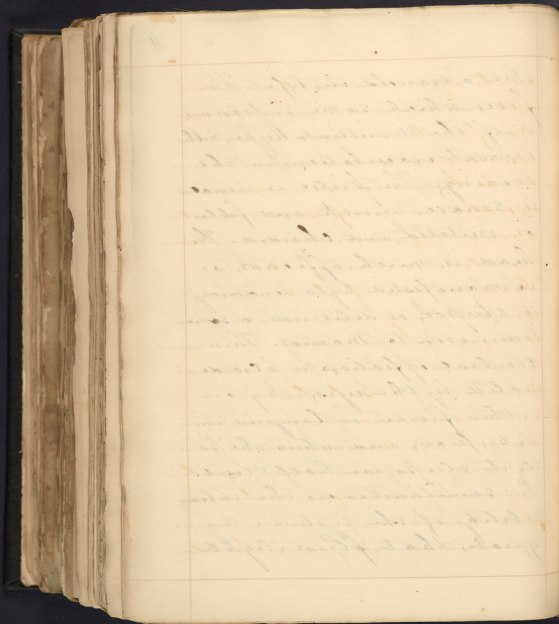
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Children under their third  
year, should indulge very spar-  
ingly in their use. Cholera  
Infantum is often aggravated  
by teething, worms, Premature  
weaning. &c

Symptoms. It sometimes  
comes on with a Diarrhoea,  
which continues for several  
days without any other symp-  
tom of indisposition, but in  
its more violent forms, there  
are vomitings, and purgings,  
occurring at the same time,  
or alternating with each other,  
and attended with no inconsiderable spasmodick uneasiness,  
Constituting the Cholera Morbus of persons far



then advanced in life. The fever which soon supervenes, is of the remittent type, with evident exacerbations in the evening. The pulse is usually small, quick, and feeble, or irritated, and chorded. The head is much affected, as is manifested by a tendency to stupor, or delirium, or sometimes even to mania. This cerebral affection is also denoted by the eyes, they are either fierce, or languid in expression, and when the patient sleeps, are half closed. In some instances the insensibility of the system is so great, that flies alight



on the eyes when half open without exciting a motion in the eyelids for their removal. The thirst is intense, and no drink is palatable but cold water, which is rejected soon after it is swallowed. The distribution of temperature is unequal, the head, regions of the stomach, & bowels being hot, while the extremities are cold. The tongue is sometimes white & furred, at others dry & polished.

The discharges from the bowels are various, most frequently they are watery or slimy and often tinged with blood, and containing small lumps of the natural faeces. The colour





is green, yellow, or bluish,  
white, or brown, and they may  
be inodorous, or very offensive.

The irritability of the alimen-  
tary canal, is sometimes so  
great, that whatever is taken  
into the stomach rapidly passes  
off unaltered.

There are few diseases in  
which emaciation more rap-  
idly takes place. The child  
becomes pallid, and the flesh  
flabby, and the common in-  
teguiments hang in folds,  
livid spots appear, followed by  
ulceration, the abdomen becomes  
tumid, the feet oedematous,  
the mouth and tongue are  
covered with aphthae, the cheeks



are sunken, the nose is sharp, the lips become shivelled, the skin on the forehead is tight as if bound to the bone, and the eyes are sunken. Even under these menacing circumstances, which would seem to denote immediate destruction, life in some instances is protracted for four or five weeks, and the patient may ultimately recover.

But as death approaches, the symptoms are gradually aggravated, the mind as well as the senses, is obtuse, the child thrusts its fingers into the back part of the mouth, as if desirous to remove something,

*[Faint, illegible handwriting in a cursive script, likely from an 18th-century manuscript. The text is written in brown ink on aged, yellowed paper. The script is dense and fills most of the page, with some lines appearing more distinct than others. The handwriting is characteristic of the period, with long, flowing strokes and frequent use of ligatures.]*

from the throat. There is a <sup>3</sup>cyst-  
talline eruptions on the chest  
of innumerable watery vesicles  
of a very minute size. A few  
worms or worms sometimes  
escape in this stage of the  
disease. The two last symptoms  
I believe were first noticed  
by Dr Dewees, and which by  
him in conjunction with the  
one immediately preceding them  
are said to be always fatal.

In some instances the pro-  
gress of this disease is more  
rapid, especially when it  
puts on the character of Chol-  
era Morbus, or Dysentery and  
runs the course of these af-  
fections. Death in the form of

From the fact that the  
other stations in the  
of a very limited  
known as the  
escape in the  
miles. The two  
I believe have  
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these instances may occur in twenty four hours, and in the latter from three to ten or fifteen days.

The peculiar symptoms of this disease, in its genuine form, will always serve to distinguish it from any other, therefore I shall not dwell on its Diagnosis. When it fits on the character of Cholera Morbus, Dysentery, or Diarrhoea, it may be considered as such and treated accordingly. It may be confounded with the irritation of teething, and that produced by worms. The seasons of the year, the wide spreading of Cholera-





Infantium, and the peculiar symptoms of these two diseases, will serve to distinguish them from the subject of this essay.

It is true that Cholera Infantum, like other Gastro-intestinal diseases, may occur at any season, but like the latter is more violent and diffusive under the particular epidemic influence of the season.

The Prognosis is by far more embarrassing, since death sometimes takes place most unexpectedly, and recoveries occur under circumstances, apparently most desperate. When in the form of Cholera Morbus, it



frequently proves suddenly fatal. But we may consider the patient as doing well, when there is restoration of temperature, the pulse becoming fuller, slower, and more natural. A subsidence of the irritability of the Stomach and bowels, the stools assuming a healthy aspect, denoting a restoration of the functions of the Liver and other apparatus, without which a recovery can not be expected.

Unfavourable. The absence of the favourable symptoms above enumerated, incessant vomiting of whatever is taken



into the Stomach, Cold damp Surface, sunk haggard countenance, Small threaded Pulse, Much general irritability, purging of gray coloured stools, or when the stools are of a pink colour, or of greeny fetid water, the child sleeping with his eyes half closed, Comatose, or with occasional convulsions.

In protracted cases, there are effusions on the serous Surfaces, and then the Viscera of the Thorax may suffer, and the Brain, as in Hydrocephalus.

Dissections inform us, that the force of this disease is chiefly expended on the alimentary



Canal. The mucous coat of the Stomach, and Small intestines, are inflamed, Coagulable lymph is thrown out, and their coats are softened, thickened and sometimes ulcerated.

The large intestines are seldom much involved, except the disease has become chronic and diarrhoea persisted for a length of time, then the large intestines exhibit alterations of the mucous surface, similar to those already indicated in the small ones. The liver in protracted cases is much enlarged, and sometimes indurated, and of a yellow or straw colour, and occasionally the





Peritoneum takes on inflammatory action. The liver though much enlarged, in a majority of instances, presents no alteration of structure, but is merely enlarged or distended by congestion, a state of things originating from stasis in the portal circulation. The gall bladder is sometimes found distended with a dark green bile & vice versa. The other viscera are sound.

Treatment. Called to a patient labouring under Cholera Infantum the first indication is to evacuate completely the alimentary canal. To do this



some practitioners commenced  
 with Emetics, but to say the  
 least, it is as <sup>uncertain</sup> dangerous prac=  
 tice. Purgatives are more gen=  
 erally preferred, Castor oil, in  
 mild attacks, combined with  
 a drop or two of Laudanum,  
 will prove adequate to a cure.  
 But in more violent attacks,  
 the irritability of the Stomach  
 must be allayed, before  
 purgatives can be adminis=  
 tered. To do which, Strong  
 Coffee without Sugar or  
 milk in tea spoon full  
 doses every ten or fifteen  
 minutes is very good, lime  
 water and milk, anodyne  
 injections. Dr Dewees speaks



highly of injections of com-  
 mon salt, fomentations to  
 the abdomen, blisters over the  
 region of the stomach &c &c.  
 This end being attained we resort  
 to purgatives, Calomel is  
 generally preferred, it may  
 be given alone or in combi-  
 nation with Magnesia, or  
 Rhubarb, the use of which  
 should be persevered in, until  
 natural discharges from the  
 bowels are procured. Calo-  
 mel is peculiarly well adap-  
 ted to this disease, from its  
 being without taste, from  
 its not being apt to produce  
 nausea, and from the small-  
 ness of the dose required to



produce its effects, it will be retained on the stomach, when most other purgatives will be rejected, and from its specific action on the liver, while it corrects the morbid action of the intestines, it exerts a sanative influence over the system, not to be obtained in the same degree nor with the same certainty from any other medicine. After the free operation of a purgative, if the child be in pain, or pretty much exhausted, Anodyne injections are useful. Some practitioners combine with each dose of Purgative Medicine, a small portion of Opium





in substance, or in tincture, it more effectually Relieves Spasms and allays the Irritation of the Stomach and bowels. Where there is much fever attended with great gastric distress, much benefit will result from bleeding, or the application of leeches over the region of the Stomach, or if there be much cerebral excitement, blood should be drawn from the arm or from the temples by leeches.

Should the Irritation of the Stomach and bowels continue, Calomel and Opium should be given in small doses frequently repeated, with the occasional administration of



some mild laxative so as to  
evacuate completely the ali-  
mentary canal. This being done  
and the healthy secretions  
restored, all that is necessary  
is to keep the bowels in a sol-  
uble state, unless there should  
be accumulations of bilious  
matter, or of Hepatic torpor and  
congestions, when the same reme-  
dies are to be resorted to. But  
if irritation be excessive, as  
manifested by a frequent and  
painful discharge of thin  
watery stools, anodyne injec-  
tions should be administered  
three or four times in the course  
of twenty four hours. The oc-  
casional administration of a



mild laxatives will be necessary if fecal accumulations exist.

In addition to the above remedies the warm bath should be added, it equalizes temperature and determines to the surface, its effects are not lasting, therefore it should be repeated three or four times a day. Where there is much cutaneous insensibility the beneficial effects of the bath will be increased by the addition of some stimulating substance such as the Muriate of Soda Mustard or brandy, and upon leaving it frictions should be employed.

Blisters are serviceable in any



stage of the disease, if the distribution of temperature be unequal, they may be applied over the stomach, abdomen or extremities. Blisters over the abdomen where there is a hot burning skin should be preceded by leeches & fomentations.

This treatment however proving unsuccessful, a combination of sugar of lead, Specacuanha and Opium. the oleaginous mixture or what is perhaps better, Mucosa butyr may be given.

After a few days, or in some instances a week or more, the disease puts on





the nature of Diarrhoea. The  
Cuta or Alkaline preparations  
are then to be resorted to. They  
may be given as follows.

R<sub>4</sub> Cuta. Prep ℥ss  
Gum. Arab. ℥  
Sacch Alb. } aa ℥j  
Linet. Opie qtt x  
Aqua Font. ℥iij M.

R<sub>4</sub> Sal. Tart. vel Carb. Sod ℥ss  
Gum. Arab. ℥  
Sacch Alb. } aa ℥j  
Linet. Thib. qtt x  
Aqua Font. ℥iij

M. Corallina Spoon full every  
two or three hours. Lime water  
and milk are also useful.

At this stage of the disease

the nature of the business the  
Cuba or the business of the  
are then to be done in the  
may be given as follows  
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The ninety-ninth step is to  
The hundredth step is to

the preparations of Rhubarb may be resorted to with benefit. The following formula may be given.

R<sub>f</sub> Pul. Rhei gr x v  
 Cal Mag ʒj.  
 Sacch alb ʒj  
 Tinct opii ʒss x  
 Oil Anis ʒss x  
 Aqua Font ʒij M.

dose a tea spoon full every three or four hours. Other preparations of Rhubarb are useful, the spiced, or Simple Syrup of Rhubarb combined with Laudanum should be given in small doses at stated intervals, so as to obtain its tonic & astringent virtues.



As the disease advances it becomes a colliquative Diarrhoea, here the same treatment should be resorted to, as in the chronic stage of this disease, in the advanced or middle aged. Combinations of Chalk, with the tincture of Kino, or an infusion of Galls & Laudanum, The Columbo in infusion, or infusion of Sagwood, the decoction of Pomegranate bark, or flowers, with a small portion of Rux Moschata, have all been administered with advantage. The dose of these preparations is the same, or nearly so, a tea spoon full,

The first of these is the  
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or more according to the age of the child, may be given at short intervals.

A strong infusion of the Dewberry root is much commended.

Saccharum Saturni, combined with Opium, may be also advantageously employed.

The chalybeates are much used; the best of which agreeably to Professor Chapman is the Super Saturated Sulphate of Iron, in the following formula

Rx Sul. Iron gr 11

Acid Sulph gr x

Sacch alb ℥j

Aqu Font ℥j M Dose ℥j

Calomel here becomes necessary,

Handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is written in cursive and is mostly illegible due to fading and the angle of the page. It appears to be a letter or a journal entry, with several lines of text visible across the page.



where we have reason to suspect  
 Hepatic derangement, or Vice=  
 ations of the humors of the  
 bowels, it may be given in  
 small doses combined with  
 Opium. Spirits of Turpentine  
 under these circumstances, where  
 the mucous lining of the bow=  
 els is much disordered, as  
 manifested by a loaded tongue  
 and slimy stools, has proved  
 highly beneficial, it may X  
 be given in doses of from five  
 to ten or fifteen drops, three,  
 or four, times a day in a  
 little sweetened water. An=  
 odyne injections may be  
 useful. Lastly a flannee  
 roller around the abdomen,

The first of these is the  
 fact that the number of the  
 family is not always the  
 same. It may be one, two,  
 three, four, five, six, seven,  
 eight, nine, ten, or more.  
 The second is the fact that  
 the number of the family is  
 not always the same. It may  
 be one, two, three, four,  
 five, six, seven, eight, nine,  
 ten, or more. The third is  
 the fact that the number of  
 the family is not always the  
 same. It may be one, two,  
 three, four, five, six, seven,  
 eight, nine, ten, or more.  
 The fourth is the fact that  
 the number of the family is  
 not always the same. It may  
 be one, two, three, four,  
 five, six, seven, eight, nine,  
 ten, or more. The fifth is  
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 the family is not always the  
 same. It may be one, two,  
 three, four, five, six, seven,  
 eight, nine, ten, or more.  
 The sixth is the fact that  
 the number of the family is  
 not always the same. It may  
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 five, six, seven, eight, nine,  
 ten, or more. The seventh is  
 the fact that the number of  
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 same. It may be one, two,  
 three, four, five, six, seven,  
 eight, nine, ten, or more.  
 The eighth is the fact that  
 the number of the family is  
 not always the same. It may  
 be one, two, three, four,  
 five, six, seven, eight, nine,  
 ten, or more. The ninth is  
 the fact that the number of  
 the family is not always the  
 same. It may be one, two,  
 three, four, five, six, seven,  
 eight, nine, ten, or more.  
 The tenth is the fact that  
 the number of the family is  
 not always the same. It may  
 be one, two, three, four,  
 five, six, seven, eight, nine,  
 ten, or more.

in relaxed states of the intestines, has been resorted to with benefit.

Regimen. In the commencement, or acute stage of the disease, the Diet should consist of breast milk; if the child be weaned or will not take the breast, let it be fed on sweetened milk diluted, Sweetened mullago of gum Arabic, Barley or rye water, weak mint or Marshmallow tea, or Toast & water.

In the advanced stages the farinaceous articles may be given, such as Sago, Rice Arrow root &c. Where returned debility of the stomach and



Lawes exist, a little ham,  
or salt fish may be given

But the best remedy is  
change of air, as long as  
the child remains exposed  
to the exciting cause<sup>s</sup> of this  
disease, it will be almost impos-  
sible to effect a radical cure

It should be removed to a  
healthy country seat, which  
is attended with the happiest  
consequences in every stage of  
the disease. When a country  
residence can not be obtain-  
ed, riding it out of the city  
once or twice a day will be  
highly beneficial.

Thus gentlemen have &  
completed an essay in Com-



pliance with a regulation  
of the University, and I sub-  
mit it to your consideration  
earnestly hoping that you  
will excuse its brevity as  
well as its defects. I how-  
ever can not conclude  
without tendering to you  
individually my warmest  
thanks for the valuable  
instruction, which I have  
received by an attendance  
on your lectures.

